

26
SEVENTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY,

WITH

A LIST OF ITS OFFICERS,

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, &c.



PHILADELPHIA:

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ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The Seventeenth Anniversary Meeting of the PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY, was held on Monday evening, October 14th, in the Sixth Presbyterian Church, of which the Rev. Dr. JONES is pastor.

The services of the evening were commenced with singing the following hymn:

Hark, ten thousand harps and voices
Sound the note of praise above;
Jesus reigns, and heaven rejoices;
Jesus reigns the God of love.

King of glory, reign for ever,
Thine an everlasting crown:
Nothing from thy love shall sever
Those whom thou hast made thy own.

Saviour, hasten thy appearing;
Bring, oh bring the glorious day,
When the Gospel summons hearing,
All the people will obey.

The Rev. Dr. PARKER made the opening prayer, and the Secretary, Mr. B. B. Comegys, read the Annual Report, which was followed by the hymn

Would you win a soul to God,
Tell him of a Saviour's blood,
Once for dying sinners spilt,
To atone for all their guilt.

Tell him how the streams did glide
 From his hands, his feet, his side;
 How his head with thorns was crowned,
 And his heart in sorrow drown'd;

How he yielded up his breath,
 How he agoniz'd in death,
 How he lives to intercede,
 Christ our Advocate and Head.

Tell him, it was sovereign grace,
 Led THEE first to seek his face;
 Made thee choose the better part,
 Wrought salvation in thy heart.

The Sermon, by Rev. Dr. BETHUNE, on this occasion, was from the second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians, chap. x. 4th and 5th verses: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong-holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

At the close of the sermon a collection was taken; and after the singing of the Doxology, the Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. JONES.

The weather was quite unfavourable, and consequently the audience was not large; but the exercises of the evening were in every part good.

Dr. PARKER's prayer was fervent and appropriate; the singing by the choir, under Mr. POOL, truly excellent; and the sermon by Dr. BETHUNE, was such as might have been expected, prepared with care and delivered with peculiar energy.

The Report of the proceedings of the Society show that its operations continue to be successfully prosecuted, and that far greater things would be done, if the means could be obtained.

OFFICERS OF THE PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY,

Elected at the Annual Meeting, September 24, 1844.

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SAMUEL ASBURY, Esq., *President.*

## VICE-PRESIDENTS.

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. C. C. CUYLER, D. D., | Rev. JOHN L. GRANT,   |
| “ S. H. TYNG, D. D.,      | “ THOMAS H. STOCKTON, |
| “ JOHN M'DOWELL, D. D.,   | “ EDMUND NEVILLE,     |
| “ G. W. BETHUNE, D. D.,   | “ THOMAS BRAINERD,    |
| “ JOEL PARKER, D. D.,     | “ C. C. VANARSDALE,   |
| “ JOSEPH H. JONES, D. D., | “ GEORGE B. IDE,      |
| “ S. H. HIGGINS, D. D.,   | “ WILLIAM SPEAR,      |
| “ ALBERT BARNES,          | “ WILLIAM RAMSEY,     |
| “ H. A. BOARDMAN,         | “ WILLIS LORD,        |
| “ ANSON ROOD,             | “ JOSEPH F. BERG,     |
| “ JOHN CHAMBERS,          | “ THOMAS M. CLARK,    |
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| “ T. W. WILEY,            | “ CHARLES BROWN,      |
| “ J. H. KENNARD,          | “ THEOPHILUS STORK,   |
| “ M. P. THOMPSON,         | “ THOMAS QUINAN.      |

B. B. COMEGYS, *Secretary.*

D. W. PRESCOTT, *Treasurer.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

|                     |                    |                      |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| J. Marshall Paul,   | J. R. Eckfeldt,    | John C. Capp,        |
| Wm. Shippen,        | A. R. Perkins,     | J. R. Wilmer,        |
| H. L. Hodge,        | Wm. E. Du Bois,    | B. D. Stewart,       |
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| John Eckel,         | H. D. Sherrerd,    | Willoughby H. Reed,  |
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| J. W. Throckmorton, | Franklin Bacon,    | Nathaniel Knowles,   |
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| F. A. Raybold,      | J. S. Cummings,    | Isaac Sulger,        |
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| A. G. Miller,       | D. S. Miller,      | J. S. Earle,         |
| Archs. Flint,       | Samuel Davis,      | E. J. Yard.          |
| J. M. Harper,       | William Soby,      |                      |

## COMMITTEES.

*Executive Committee.*

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. J. Marshall Paul, | Isaac Dunton,      |
| Dr. Wm. Shippen,      | Henry R. Davis,    |
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| Martin Buehler,       |                    |

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|              |                  |                 |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Robert Earp, | Dr. Wm. Shippen, | John Alexander, |
| A. Flint,    | Henry R. Davis,  | E. J. Yard.     |

*Committee on Shipping in the Delaware.*

|                 |                 |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| D. W. Prescott, | Capt. H. Lelar, | Samuel Allibone, |
| Thomas Cooper,  | Isaac Dunton,   | Oliver Brooks.   |

*Committee on the Schuylkill.*

|              |             |                   |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| John Harned, | Henry Bird, | Benjamin Gaskill. |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|

## WARD SUPERINTENDENTS.

|                                                 |     |                    |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----------------|
| New Market Ward — D. W. Prescott,               |     |                    |                 |
| Cedar                                           | do. | A. Flint,          |                 |
| Locust                                          | do. | B. B. Comegys,     |                 |
| Pine                                            | do. | James Boyd,        |                 |
| South                                           | do. | Milton Smith,      |                 |
| Dock                                            | do. | George M. Copper,  |                 |
| Walnut                                          | do. | H. R. Davis,       |                 |
| Chestnut                                        | do. | E. H. Harrison,    |                 |
| Middle                                          | do. | John Harned,       |                 |
| High                                            | do. | William Rorer,     |                 |
| North                                           | do. | J. S. Cummings,    |                 |
| S. Mulberry                                     | do. | Anson Jewell,      |                 |
| L. Delaware                                     | do. | N. Knowles,        |                 |
| U. Delaware                                     | do. | Jacob Sellers,     |                 |
| N. Mulberry                                     | do. | and Spring Garden, | A. Rowland,     |
| Fairmount, Rev. Charles Brown,                  |     |                    |                 |
| East Kensington, Rev. J. G. Maxwell,            |     |                    |                 |
| West Kensington, John Erhardt,                  |     |                    |                 |
| First Ward, Northern Liberties, Martin Buehler, |     |                    |                 |
| Second                                          | do. | do.                | Abraham Masson, |
| Third                                           | do. | do.                | Anthony Green,  |
| Fourth                                          | do. | do.                | D. S. Miller,   |
| Fifth                                           | do. | do.                | Joseph Aitkin,  |
| Sixth                                           | do. | do.                | C. A. Wilson,   |
| Seventh                                         | do. | do.                | John Erhardt.   |
| First Ward, Southwark, Rev. T. H. Quinan,       |     |                    |                 |
| Second                                          | do. | } John Lilly,      |                 |
| Third                                           | do. |                    |                 |
| Fourth                                          | do. | R. W. Hamilton,    |                 |
| Fifth                                           | do. | W. C. Chambers.    |                 |
| East Moyamensing, John M. Harper.               |     |                    |                 |
| West Moyamensing, G. W. Lott.                   |     |                    |                 |
| West Philadelphia, Charles H. Muller.           |     |                    |                 |

## R E P O R T .

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IN the good providence of God another season has arrived, when it becomes the duty of the Directors of the Philadelphia Tract Society to present an account of their proceedings for the year that closes this evening.

As we occupy the same ground, and are pursuing the same objects as in former years, there will, of necessity, be much similarity in the events recorded; but, as they relate to the great concerns of Christ's kingdom, we cannot but feel interested, while it is remembered that the salvation of souls is the work that brought the Saviour from heaven, and a work in which angels, and all holy beings above, with the redeemed among men on earth, have ever felt a deep interest.

It has been a matter of serious inquiry, how, or by what means the multitudes about us can be reached with the truths of the gospel in a way that shall prove effectual to their salvation.

There are, in the city of Philadelphia and the adjoining districts, about one hundred and sixty places for public worship, of all denominations, and a population, at the present time, of nearly three hundred thousand souls. Allowing that, at all those places, the gospel is presented in an intelligible manner, and that the congregations, attending on the Sabbath, average five hundred persons, this would leave more than two-thirds of our population who do not attend upon the preaching of the gospel.

It may be said, however, that this is much too dark a picture; and it will be very gratifying if it can, with truth, be made less dark; and, to do so, let us reckon the sick, the infirm, and the children not old enough to attend the sanctuary, and servants who are prevented by what are supposed necessary duties at home, and let these several classes be estimated at eighty thousand more; still there remains about one-half of this community whom the sound of the preacher's voice does not reach.

Hitherto, there seems to have been no means devised so well adapted, or which have proved so successful, as the work of tract distribution, accompanied with missionary labour.

A gentleman, who has taken much interest in this work, having purchased and circulated many thousand tracts himself, says, "I can conceive of no moral machinery capable of such unlimited application, for usefulness, as religious tracts. I have long been impressed with this truth, and, consequently, am very desirous of witnessing among Christians, generally, a proper appreciation of this great engine, thus placed in their hands, for the advancement of our Saviour's kingdom."

The children of this world have herein taught us wisdom; and the friends of evangelical truth can now profit by the inventions of the enemy. In accordance with the declaration of the psalmist, "The wrath of man has been restrained," and made unwittingly instrumental in the promotion of God's glory. How little did Voltaire think, when he introduced tracts as the most efficient means of disseminating his infidel and atheistic principles, that this very instrumentality would be wielded so effectually to promote that cause which he so vainly attempted to destroy.

The great reason why far more blessed results have not been produced, is the lack of *zeal and fidelity in prosecuting our work*, and the many discouragements attending it. Here are no displays of banners and flags; no bouquets or wreaths. The Tract Visitors go out to their districts, distributing, from house to house, the pages of heavenly truth, oftentimes with



doubts and fears as to their reception. Many families receive them kindly, others with cold indifference, and sometimes they are repulsed with rudeness; but in the spirit of their Divine master, who endured reproach, and suffered the contradiction of sinners against himself, the faithful visiter goes forward in the strength of Christ, feeling that to be made instrumental in the salvation of *but one soul*, is a matter of such infinite moment, as to make all temporal things comparatively unimportant.

It will be remembered that, during the past season, there have been peculiar obstacles in the way of the successful prosecution of the labours in which we are engaged. The deplorable scenes which have been witnessed among us, and the excited state of public feeling, to which they have given rise, seem to have so drawn away the minds of the community, that serious, sober truths, relating to things of another world, can gain little attention. The soul's eternal loss, and the overwhelming destruction that awaits the ungodly, are considered of comparatively small consequence; but, notwithstanding all this, we must not faint nor grow weary, but amidst all discouragements we must remember that our Saviour has all power in heaven and on earth.

The monthly distribution has been carried on as heretofore, in the city and suburbs, by the labours of about six hundred tract visiters, twenty-eight superintendents, and three missionaries. The field comprises thirty-two wards, or divisions, containing between thirty-eight and thirty-nine thousand families, twenty-two hundred of them German, one hundred French, and a few others.

Our criminal and humane institutions have, as in former years, been steadily supplied with tracts; as have also the shipping and boatmen on the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers; and tracts have been granted for gratuitous circulation in various directions, at home and abroad. Probably not less than *one hundred thousand souls are reached monthly*, with a message of solemn warning and instruction, by this society.

Of the fields of labour, occupied by our missionaries, one is at the south, one at the north, and the other in the western part of the city. Mr. Lilly has Southwark; Mr. Rowland, Spring Garden and North Mulberry, and Mr. Erhardt, Kensington.

Mr. Rowland, in his report for August, makes the following statements. "I have been engaged in this work, most of the time, for the last eight years. The field where I labour includes North Mulberry ward and Spring Garden, divided into one hundred and thirteen districts, containing about four thousand seven hundred and fifty families that are accessible to the tract visitors, of which I have thirty-five male and seventy-three females. While there is much cause for humiliation, that we have not laboured with more fidelity, there is also cause for thankfulness for what has been done.

"In looking back, it is found that the number of persons who, there is reason to think, have been brought to a saving knowledge of Christ, by this instrumentality, has averaged about twenty-five each year; making two hundred during the eight years.

"Besides these two hundred perishing souls, ransomed from the power of sin and Satan, the visitors have gathered not less than five hundred children for the Sabbath Schools, supplied between four and five hundred destitute families with the Bible, and persuaded upwards of four hundred of the neglectors of God's house to attend upon a preached gospel. We have also held two thousand nine hundred and twelve prayer-meetings in different places, which have usually been well attended."

The field occupied by this brother contains about one-eighth of the population, in the city and liberties, and here are results which more than a *thousand times* compensate us for all our toil and expense, especially if our Saviour's estimate of the worth of souls be taken; and *shall not such a work as this be sustained?* And while it seems all important that increased energy should be put forth to send the gospel to the distant parts of our fallen world, shall not the perishing multitudes at our very door be remembered?

The other missionaries have been in the field only the present year, and are engaged in similar labours. Three or four additional missionaries *are greatly needed*, and would be employed if funds could be obtained for their support.

The amount of donations and collections obtained for the past year, to sustain this society, is about two thousand eight hundred dollars; a much less sum than was necessary to carry forward our operations with that efficiency that seemed so desirable.

The whole amount of receipts, according to the Treasurer's report, is \$3,756 34.

While, in many parts of our city and suburbs, vice and disorder greatly abound, in others, and a large portion of them, the people are generally exemplary, as it appears by the reports of our visitors—specimens of which are subjoined.

“I have gone through my district,” says a visiter, “every month, and I find but little to report; for, with few exceptions, it is a church-going district, and, consequently, a moral and a respectable one. I feel highly gratified with the reception I met with, when I took round my tracts the first time. I offered one to a Catholic woman, who instantly refused it, with much asperity of manner. Her children were playing on the floor. I asked their names, and spoke kindly to them, and very soon enlisted the feelings of their mother, who said she would take a tract; and every time since she meets me with a smiling countenance. The last time I went I found she had buried a dear child. She wept much when she saw me, and told me she *had been watching for my coming*. I had a serious conversation with her, endeavouring to bring the great truths of the gospel home to her heart and conscience, and I hope she will be benefited.

“A young man, who had long been wasting away by consumption, died a few days ago. He gave a very comfortable evidence of a change of heart, and departed in a happy and peaceful state of mind.

“I believe all the children, of a suitable age, in my district,

attend Sabbath School, and I do not know of one intemperate person."

Another visiter says, "In my visits, during the last three months, my own heart has been very much encouraged by the increasing interest which some in my district seem to evince. Where, heretofore, I met with a simple nod of recognition, or cold thanks, now the hand is extended, the reception cordial, and, oftentimes, kind inquiries made. One said, 'You must certainly desire our good, or you would never take this trouble.' Another said, 'that she felt that the tract, "Why sit ye here idle?" had been written expressly for her.' Many whose hearts have been cold and indifferent on the subject of religion are now willing and ready to converse about their souls' everlasting welfare. Some have been touched by the hand of God with severe affliction. Parents bereaved of their children, and children deprived of their parents.

"Among the deaths that have recently occurred, was that of a young woman, just entering upon life, with every prospect of earthly happiness. She had been married but a few months, when consumption seized upon her, and soon brought her to an early grave. Notwithstanding her short pilgrimage, she was willing, nay, happy, to go where all tears shall be wiped away, and sorrow and death can never come. Another was an aged servant of the Lord. Her life had been one of trial and suffering, and death to her was a blessed release.

"Another was called to part with her darling child. I had continued to leave the tract at her house for a long time, but never could get access to her, so as to have any conversation until now. The tract had been taken with cold indifference. When handing the tract, this month, I noticed a subdued expression of countenance, and an apparent anxiety to converse. I asked after the health of her children; with a trembling voice she told me, that one had been taken. The mother's heart was softened, and her eyes filled with tears; but when I told her that the Saviour died for her little one, and that no doubt it had gone to the heavenly world, where all the re-

deemed children of God will finally be brought, her face brightened into a smile, and she became at once entirely reconciled; and, since then, at no place am I more cordially received than here; and religion, hitherto a forbidden subject, is now the constant theme of our conversation, and a good work has, I trust, begun in her heart."

"*Death*," says another, "has been busy in my district, within the past few months, and removed three persons from among us. One of them, during an illness of many months, manifested a most lovely Christian spirit, and went down to the grave rejoicing in hope. The second was far advanced in life, but, it is to be feared, was unprepared. The third died suddenly, in her chair, while under the influence of intoxicating liquors. Her awful summons has, I trust, been a profitable warning to the other inmates of the house, one of whom seems very anxious for her soul's salvation; and it should teach us all to work while it is called day, *remembering* that the night cometh with most fearful rapidity. It demands, too, an account of past faithfulness, and asks whether that woman's blood will not be required at the hands of the visiter. Had the visiter been aware of this person's infirmity, and *been faithful* in endeavouring to reclaim her, she might have been successful.

"There is another woman in my district now lying in the last stage of consumption. When I first presented her with a tract she was apparently in good health, careless and unconcerned. She promised, however, to give heed to spiritual things, and seek an interest in Christ. The next time I saw her she was stretched on a bed of sickness. She said that she wanted to find the Master, but had not yet been able. From that time, in company with a friend, I visited her frequently, and read to her the precious truths of the gospel, and knelt in her behalf at the mercy-seat. A few days since, we had the inexpressible joy of finding her in the midst of much bodily weakness, *rejoicing in hope, and in possession of that peace which passeth all understanding*, which the world can neither give nor take away.

"One other person to whom we had given a Bible, seems



much interested about spiritual and eternal things, and our hope and prayer is, that the good spirit of the Lord will lead and guide her in the right way."

Many other similar statements might be made. What has already been reported will show the character of the work in which the Society is engaged, and which we humbly hope will commend itself to the *hearts and sympathies of all who felt a concern for perishing souls.*

It having been found that the keeping of a depository was rather injurious to the pecuniary interest of the Society, the Board, after due consideration, disposed of it in a way, that while both the Society and the public have all the advantages of such an establishment, they are relieved from any expense or responsibility in sustaining it.

Since our last anniversary, Mr. William T. Donaldson, one of the members of this Board, has been suddenly removed by death. While by this solemn dispensation of Providence his bereaved family are left to mourn an irreparable loss, and the community at large a most valuable member, we have the consolation to know that although our brother was called away without a moment's warning, he was *not* unprepared, but has we doubt not (through redeeming mercy and grace) entered into the joy of our Lord. Should not this event awaken and quicken us all, to double our diligence to work while the day lasts, and to do what our hands find to do in the way of promoting our Saviour's kingdom *with all our might.*

The Society should, if possible, (besides sustaining the work at home) be able to appropriate two or three thousand dollars to aid in sending tracts to the perishing in distant parts of the world, and also help in carrying on the Colporteur system among the destitute in our own land, and thus be the means of extensively diffusing abroad the light and knowledge of that blessed Gospel which is all our hope.

Certainly there is cause for much regret, that the professed friends of Christ are not more alive to the great interest of his kingdom. Who will say, that there is any thing doing in the

various departments of Christian benevolence, at all corresponding with the obligations resting on those whose salvation has been purchased by a Saviour's blood? What darkness yet covers the earth! How many are yet the habitations of cruelty! What multitudes of the poor heathens perish, day by day, and with what fearful rapidity is the world's population hastening on to the judgment bar of Christ! How many of them, even in this Christian land, and this Gospel-enlightened city, are continually going down to death, *without God and without hope!* Is it not time for the professed disciples of Christ to awake, and be willing to take up the cross and labour in their Master's vineyard, with persevering assiduity, looking for grace and strength to that God, who is pleased to make use of the weak things of the world to confound the mighty; and whose cheering and gracious promise it is, that in due season we shall reap if we faint not?

The Managers desire to express their thanks for the support given to this Society for the past seventeen years, and they trust, that a cause so truly benevolent, will continue to be sustained by the prayers and contributions of this Christian community.

## TRACTS DISTRIBUTED.

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ENGLISH.

October,	No. 446—	The Stricken Bride.
November,	" 453—	The Sinner Believing.
December,	" 449—	Would You be Happy?
January,		—The New Year.
February,	" 447—	Why should I Study the Bible?
March,	" 450—	The Heart Opened.
April,	" 448—	Why Sit ye here Idle?
May,	" 458—	A Man Overboard.
June,	" 5—	Who Left this Tract?
July,	" 456—	The Blacksmith's Wife.
August,	"	
September,	" 459—	Eyes Opened.

GERMAN.

October,	No. 3—	The Swearer's Prayer.
November,	" 15—	Sin no Trifle.
December,	" 77—	Where did he Get that Law?
January,	" 43—	Do You Want a Friend?
February,	" 32—	To All who would be Saved.
March,	" 40—	Warning to Sabbath Breakers.
April,	" 105—	A Time to Dance.
May,	" 15—	Sin no Trifle.
June,	" 55—	Strange Incident.
July,	" 54—	Who Slew all These?
August,	"	
September,	" 101—	The Logic of Life.

FRENCH.

October,	No. 16—	The Two Ways.
November,	" 42—	Incomparable Friend.
December,	" 43—	Converted Sailor.
January,	" 46—	The Two Families.
February,	" 24—	The Great Question.
March,	" 17—	Great Effects from Little Causes.
April,	" 34—	Bible above all Price.
May,	" 10—	The Veteran.
June,	" 8—	Chimney Sweeper.
July,	" 11—	The Lottery.
August,	"	
September,	" 9—	Swiss Peasant.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

RECEIVED

FROM INDIVIDUALS, SOCIETIES, AND CHURCHES, DURING THE YEAR.

Collections at the Anniversary Meeting,	\$48 50	Paul Beck, Jr.	20 00
Abraham R. Perkins,	100 00	James Peters,	10 00
Mrs. Reed,	10 00	William S. Boyd,	25 00
A Young Friend,	3 00	Thomas Conrad,	3 00
Benjamin Tingley,	10 00	John Eckle,	100 00
C. Spangler,	50 00	Cash,	2 00
Isaac Ashmead,	10 00	Cash,	1 00
J. Schreiner,	1 00	Charles Hall,	5 00
A Friend,	5 00	Abraham Martin,	5 00
Two Ladies,	6 25	Samuel H. Perkins,	10 00
Mrs. Haseltine,	5 00	Jacob Sellers,	5 00
Moses Johnson,	5 00	F. A. Raybold,	10 00
T. Mason Mitchell,	10 00	Stephen Bolwell,	5 00
S. Eldridge,	5 00	Charles Morrell,	1 00
Dr. J. M. Paul,	50 00	Milton Smith,	3 00
J. B. Okie,	5 00	Cash,	1 00
Thomas Earp,	10 00	Isaac S. Williams,	10 00
R. W. Davenport,	5 00	W. A.,	5 00
Edward Carr,	5 00	J. G. Nattinger,	5 00
Franklin Bacon,	5 00	Matthew L. Bevan,	5 00
James Field,	10 00	John C. Farr,	5 00
Samuel Asbury,	50 00	A Young Lady,	1 81
Samuel Davis,	5 00	Robert McCall,	15 00
Michael Reed,	10 00	C. B. Dungan,	2 00
J. W. Throckmorton,	25 00	R. S. Clark,	10 00
William Dulty,	5 00	Joseph Montgomery,	5 00
C. P. Bayard,	1 00	Isaac Dunton,	100 00
J. & G. Stuart,	50 00	J. R. Eckfeldt,	5 00
Willoughby H. Reed,	10 00	William Purves,	10 00
William T. Donaldson,	10 00	Isaac Thompson,	2 00
Otis Ammidon,	5 00	Cash,	31
Elizabeth P. Stott,	33 00	Cash,	1 00
Mrs. M. Carswell,	10 00	Alexander Fullerton,	50 00
James Smith,	75 00	Thomas Fleming,	10 00
J. Patterson,	5 00	Edward S. Whelen,	20 00
Mrs. Whitehead,	5 00	John M. Atwood,	10 00
William Raiguel,	50 00	T. A. Biddle,	10 00
Charles B. Schoville,	3 00	J. McLanahan,	10 00
A Lady,	5 00	E. A. Holmes,	5 00
Anonymous,	25 00	J. W. Paul,	5 00
H. R. D.,	25 00	David Lapsley,	25 00
J. Cope,	1 00	H. J. Williams,	5 00
Cash,	1 00	J. S. Kneedler,	5 00
A. Flint,	30 00	J. E. Brown,	5 00
		John A. Brown,	100 00

Thomas Sparhawk,	5 00	Mary Ann Singer,	20 00
Cash,	3 00	J. Alexander,	5 00
Quinten Campbell,	5 00	A. J. Miller,	5 00
Cash,	1 00	William Wurts,	25 00
Cash,	1 00	Thomas Cooper,	2 00
Cash,	2 00	J. S. Cummings,	5 00
Cash,	0 50	Miss Ann Hall,	10 00
Levi Eldridge,	5 00	E. F. Backus,	10 00
Eleanor Burns,	0 50	J. M. Harper,	5 00
Alexander Reed,	3 00	Samuel B. Smith,	2 50
Anthony Green,	5 00	Mrs. Gerhard,	6 00
F. D. Sherman,	5 00	D. P. Alden,	5 00
William Kirk,	2 00	Alfred Fassitt,	5 00
B. D. Stewart,	5 00	Rev. T. W. Wiley,	2 00
Charles S. Wurts,	25 00	D. S. Miller,	5 00
E. Dunbar,	10 00	A Lady,	50 00
John C. Copper,	1 00	Mrs. E. P. Wilson,	50 00
W. E. Tenbrook,	3 00	Samuel Woodward,	5 00
N. B. Thompson,	5 00	Thomas Wattson,	1 00
John Borland,	25 00	C. H. Cassady,	2 00
James Atwood,	10 00	Miss C. R. Reese,	1 00
Mrs. Ralston,	2 00	Henry Perkins,	10 00
James Fassitt,	15 00	A Friend,	5 00
Alexander Tower,	5 00	Mrs. Phelps,	10 00
James Bayard,	5 00	D. W. Prescott,	10 00
Thomas Biddle,	10 00	William E. Du Bois,	10 00
Ambrose White,	10 00	John Farr,	5 00
Jacob Dunton,	5 00	Martin Buehler,	5 00
Dr. H. Neill,	5 00	William Shippen,	5 00
Cash,	1 00	William Worrell,	20 00
John Reid,	5 00	John McClure,	5 00
J. R. Gemmil,	5 00	B. B. Comegys,	2 00
J. R. Neff,	5 00	William H. Flint,	2 00
Cash,	1 00	James W. Boyd,	5 00
Cash,	5 00	G. W. Fobes,	10 00
Thomas Roney,	5 00	Mrs. J. Stille,	5 00
Thomas Harris,	5 00	Miss S. Stille,	10 00
Cash,	2 00	Female Tract Society of the	
J. C. Donnell,	5 00	First Presb. Church,	151 50
Cash,	0 50	Tract Society of Crown St.	
Cash,	2 00	Church,	44 03
A. S. Barnes,	2 00	Collection in the Rev. Dr.	
Newbury Smith,	1 00	Bethune's Church,	64 46
E. J. Yard,	2 00	Sabbath-school Society, North	
A Friend,	3 00	Presbyterian Church,	25 00
Robert Earp,	25 00	Juvenile Soc. of Ninth Presb.	
H. C. Blair,	1 00	Church,	8 30
Cash,	1 00	Neshaminy Presb. Church,	9 00
Miss Sidney Paul,	25 00	Germantown Tract Society,	5 00
Mrs. C. Field,	5 00	Executors of the Estate of	
William W. Cansler,	2 00	Mrs. R. Wetherill,	97 50
Miss E. Reese,	1 00	Collection in the Clinton St.	
H. D. Sherrerd,	2 00	Church,	106 74
Lemuel Coffin,	5 00	Hamiltonville Tract Soc.	15 00

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be denominated the PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY, Auxiliary to the American Tract Society. Its object shall be to promote the interests of evangelical religion and sound morality through the medium of religious Tracts.

ART. 2. Any person contributing annually, not less than one dollar to the funds of this Society, shall be a member, and entitled to vote at all meetings of the same.

ART. 3. The Society shall meet annually, on the last Tuesday of September, when the proceedings of the foregoing year shall be reported, and a Board, consisting of a President, Vice Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and forty-five Directors, shall be elected to conduct the business of the Society. The board shall have power to call special meetings of the Society. The officers of the Society shall be members of the Board, *ex-officio*.

ART. 4. This Society shall adopt the tracts of the American Tract Society.

ART. 5. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to conduct the correspondence of the Society and Board, and prepare the annual report.

ART. 6. The Recording Secretary shall keep correct minutes of the proceedings of the Society and Board: Shall notify the members of the meetings, and attend to all other business belonging to the office.

ART. 7. The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Society, keep a list of the contributors, pay all bills of expense incurred by the Board, on the order of the Executive Committee, and report the state of the Treasury at each stated and annual meeting.

ART. 8. The Board shall annually elect from their own number, an Executive Committee, consisting of seven members, to conduct the business of the Society, during the recess of the Board.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be *ex-officio* a member of this committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. 9. The Board shall have power to appropriate the funds of this Society to the purchase of Tracts, either for a Depository, with the necessary expenses of sustaining the same, or in a stated and systematic general Tract distribution or otherwise, and shall have authority to make donations to the Parent Society.

ART. 10. The Board shall meet at least once a month. They shall have power to fill their own vacancies, to enact their own by-laws, shall adopt measures for promoting the objects of the Society, by appointing Committees, and by their own personal exertion discharge, as far as practicable, the business of the Society. They shall report their proceedings at each meeting of the Society; five members shall constitute a quorum. Any member absenting himself for four successive meetings of the Board, without assigning some reason therefor, shall be considered as having vacated his seat in the Board.

ART. 11. Societies may become auxiliary to this institution, by annually contributing a donation from their funds to the treasury of the Society, and sending a copy of their constitution and a list of officers. They shall be entitled to a representation in the Board.

ART. 12. All meetings of the Society, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ART. 13. The President, (or, in his absence, any one of the Vice-Presidents,) at the request of three directors, shall call special meetings of the Board.

ART. 14. This Constitution shall not be altered, unless by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, at an annual meeting, or at a regular meeting called for the purpose.

B Y - L A W S .

1. At meetings of the Board, the following shall be the order of business:—Reading minutes of the last meeting; unfinished business; reports of Executive, Standing, and other Committees; Corresponding Secretary's Report; Treasurer's Report; new business.

2. That in addition to the Executive Committee, the following shall be Standing Committees of the Board:—Committee on Monthly Distribution, Shipping, &c., on the Delaware; Canal Boats, &c., on the Schuylkill; Prisons and Humane Institutions.

3. Each of the Standing Committees shall keep a book of minutes of their proceedings, in a permanent form, the reading of which shall constitute essentially their Report to the Board.

4. Tracts for the use of the several Standing Committees shall be drawn from the Depository of the Philadelphia Tract Society, by the order of their respective Chairmen, who shall keep an accurate account thereof, and report at the stated meetings of the Board.

5. The stated meetings of the Board shall be on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

6. It is recommended, that the meetings of the several Committees from the Board be opened with prayer.

7. No Tracts shall be delivered for distribution to any Committee, unless they agree to make regular reports to the Board.

8. The several Standing Committees are authorized to call in the aid of other individuals, so far as they find necessary, for the discharge of the duties assigned them.

9. These By-laws shall not be altered or amended without the concurrence of, at least, two-thirds of the members present, at a stated meeting.

Meetings of the Society, the Board, and Committees.

Annual meeting of the Society, on the fourth Tuesday evening in September.

Meeting of the Board, on the fourth Tuesday evening, in every month.

Meeting of the Executive Committee, every Thursday afternoon, at five o'clock.

Meeting of the other Committees, at the call of their respective Chairmen.

TRACT VISITER'S GUIDE.

Remember and feel that you have a great work to do ; that you will need much of the grace and spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. Begin, therefore, by going to the throne of mercy ; earnestly imploring the divine guidance and direction. Strive to have your heart tenderly alive to the great object in view. Try to realize the infinite value of one soul ; what it cost the Saviour to redeem it ; what it is to be saved or lost !

While you endeavour to be faithful, see that your deportment is kind, affectionate, and humble. Present the simple truths of the gospel, in the mild and persuasive accents of love.

You should become acquainted with the families and individuals in your district ; especially, find out the neglected, the destitute, and wretched ; and while *your great concern* is for the soul's salvation, obtain relief, as far as you are able, for the supply of their temporal wants.

If your district is large, it is best not to try to go through it all at once ; and it is very desirable, if your time will admit, to visit, frequently, such families as you find do more especially need your help and sympathy. Make them the special subjects of prayer ; and those who are the most careless and indifferent, should be followed up with tender and earnest expostulation.

You will need to use much discretion in adapting your efforts to the character and circumstances of those whose present and everlasting welfare you are endeavouring to promote ; and, therefore, you will cease not to pray for that wisdom which cometh from above.

Take short notes of your visits, and of any interesting occurrences that may take place, and let the missionary or superintendent have your report early in the month.

Be patient and persevering ; faint not, nor grow weary.

Commence, continue, and end all your labour with prayer.